(b)whether Government have a plan to carry such tests at regular intervals and if so what is the plan; and

(c)what steps will be taken to explain India's stand to those countries who are signatories to the Comprehensive Tests Ban Treaty (CTBT)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) It is not in the national interest to disclose the information sought for.

Government have announced a moratorium on further nuclear tests and offered to formalise it into an obligation through negotiations with key world powers.

Government are taking the Accessary steps in this direction.

Use of Indigenous Technology in Nuclear Tests

173. DR. ALLAD1 P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)the extent and range of indigenous technology used in the recent three underground nuclear tests at Pokhran;

(b)the extent to which these tests will help research in nuclear technology for peaceful purposes; and

(c)what is India's stand on the CTBT and NPT in the new situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Research in the field of nuclear science and technology with particular reference to the nuclear power sector covers a very wide range of areas and is multi-disciplinary in nature. It covers chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, nuclear physics and chemistry, robotics, high precision measurements and production technology, electronics and information technology, etc. In particular, the scientists and engineers of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) have been able to achieve complete mastery over the entire nuclear fuel cycle starting from mining of uranium ore to production of uranium fuel of various kinds and the disposal of the waste, including reprocessing. The establishments of the Department of Atomic Energy have been involved in these areas of research ever since their inception. This entire range of mostly indigenously developed technology contributed to the success of the nuclear tests carried out recently at Pokhran.

In principles, underground nuclear explosion can be used for peaceful applications like in-situ leaching of fractured coper ores, digging canals, etc. However, at present, neither India nor any other country is contemplating such applications.

Government have stated that India would be prepared to consider being an adherent to some of the undertakings in the CTBT. However, it has also been stated that these decisions cannot be taken in a vacuum and will depend upon reciprocal responses. Government's position on the discriminatory NPT treaty is well-known.

Reasons for conducting Nuclear Explosion at Pokhran

174. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)the details of the three atomic/ nuclear explosions made in Pokhran on 11th May, 1998;

(b)the reasons behind making these tests at this time; and

(c)the achievement of these tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Three Nuclear Tests were conducted on May 11, 1998. The tests on May 11 were a Thermonuclear Device with a yield of about 45 kT, a Fission Device with a yield of about 15 kT and a low yield device with a yield of about 0.2 kT. All the tests were fully contrained with no release of radioactivity into the atmosphere. The measured yields are in line with expected values.

These tests have been done now in the interest of national security.

These tests have established that India has a proven capability for a weaponised nuclear programme. They also provide a valuable database which is useful in the design of nuclear weapons of different yields for different applications and for different delivery systems. Further, they are expected to carry Indian scientists towards a sound computer simulation capability which may be supported by sub-critical experiments, if considered necessary.

Companies engaged in Production of Electronic Items

175. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the names of the public and private sector units engaged in the production of electronic items in the country, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): Statewise list of public and private sector units reporting production to the Department of Electronics is given in Annexure. *[See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 2]* In addition, approximately 2000 cottage industrial units are also assembling electronic items.

Rationalisation of Import Duty on Colour Monitor

176. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)the number of total colour monitor produced in the country and the demand thereof at present;

(b)whether Government's attention has been drawn to the joint representation from domestic colour monitor manufacturers association regarding rationalisation of import duty, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated April 30, 1998; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) According to information available with the Department of Electronics, the production of computer monitors was about 3 lakhs against an estimated demand of 7 lakhs during the year 1997.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Domestic colour monitor manufacturers have represented regarding rationalisation of import duty on parts of monitor *vis-a-vis* colour monitor. The representation has been examined in this Department and it is found that there is no anomaly in the duty structure as mentioned in their representation. Moreover, the import duty on parts of colour monitors is already lower than that on finished colour monitors. Also, as per the Export Import Policy 1997—2000, colour monitor parts are freely importable whereas the colour monitors of CIF value upto Rs.7500 are allowed under Special Import Licence (SIL) thus adding additional protection.

Improvement of Relations with Foreign Countries

177. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government have taken any initiatives to improve and strengthen relations with neighbouring countries; and

(b)if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) It is Government's policy to make every effort to improve relations